

FOIL Request — Town of Chatham

From: Joshua Powell <Josh@thepowellhousepress.com>
Date: March 3, 2026 at 11:01:13 AM EST
To: Chatham Town Clerk <townclerk@chathamnewyork.gov>

March 3, 2026

Beth Anne Rippel, RMC
Town Clerk/Tax Collector Town of Chatham
488 Route 295
Chatham, NY 12037

Via: Electronic Mail

Re: Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) Request

Dear Ms. Rippel:

Pursuant to the New York State Freedom of Information Law (Public Officers Law, Article 6, Sections 84–90), I hereby request access to and copies of the following records maintained by the Town of Chatham:

I. Financial Disclosure Records

All financial disclosure statements and related filings submitted by Town Supervisor Donal Collins for the periods covering 2022 through the present (2026), including but not limited to:

- Annual Statements of Financial Disclosure as required by applicable state or local law;
- Any amendments, corrections, or supplemental filings to such disclosure statements;
- Any correspondence between the Town, its ethics board, or any oversight body and Supervisor Collins regarding the filing or content of said disclosures.

Specifically, this request seeks all annual statements of financial disclosure, also known as financial disclosure forms, ethics disclosure filings, and any related amendments or supplements thereto, as filed by Town Supervisor Donal Collins for the calendar/fiscal years 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026 (through the present date). This includes any filings required under New York General Municipal Law Section 811 or any applicable local ethics code or ordinance adopted by the Town of Chatham.

II. Recusal Records — 509 Bashford Road / Williams Matters

All written records, documents, and communications related to Town Supervisor Donal Collins' recusal — or failure to recuse — from any and all matters associated with the property located at 509 Bashford Road, Chatham, NY, and/or any matters involving Dr. Edwin Williams and Mrs. Cherie Williams, including but not limited to:

- Any formal recusal statements, declarations, or notices made by Supervisor Collins, whether oral (as reflected in meeting minutes or transcripts) or in writing;

- All Town Board meeting minutes, resolutions, and agendas in which the property at 509 Bashford Road or Dr. Edwin Williams and/or Mrs. Cherie Williams are referenced or discussed;
- Any correspondence — including emails, letters, memoranda, and text messages — between Supervisor Collins and any Town official, board member, employee, attorney, consultant, or agent regarding 509 Bashford Road or the Williams matter;
- Any correspondence between Supervisor Collins and Dr. Edwin Williams, Mrs. Cherie Williams, or any representative acting on their behalf;
- Any ethics opinions, advisory memoranda, or determinations issued by the Town's ethics board, Town attorney, or any other body regarding Supervisor Collins' participation in or recusal from matters related to 509 Bashford Road or the Williams family;
- Any complaints, referrals, or inquiries filed with or by any Town body concerning potential conflicts of interest involving Supervisor Collins and the aforementioned property or individuals;
- All land use, zoning, planning, or permit applications, decisions, and related records pertaining to 509 Bashford Road in which Supervisor Collins participated, voted, or was present during deliberation.

This request for recusal-related records covers the period from January 1, 2022 through the present date.

III. General Provisions

If any of the requested records are maintained in electronic format, I would prefer to receive them electronically (e.g., via email as PDF attachments). If only paper copies are available, I respectfully request that photocopies be provided.

As provided by the FOIL statute, I expect a response within five (5) business days of receipt of this request. If access to any of the requested records is denied in whole or in part, please provide a written explanation of the basis for the denial, including citation to the specific exemption(s) in Public Officers Law Section 87(2) upon which the denial relies, as well as the name and address of the person or body to whom an appeal may be directed.

If there are any fees associated with this request, please inform me of the total charges in advance of fulfilling the request. As provided under 21 NYCRR 1401.8, I understand that fees for photocopies shall not exceed twenty-five cents (\$0.25) per page for standard-size copies.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. I look forward to your timely response.

Respectfully submitted,

Josh Powell (518) 567-8300